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Chairman: Mr. Hachani ..... (Tunisia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 101: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/53/3, A/53/371–S/1998/848, A/53/380, A/53/381 and A/53/416; A/C.3/53/L.2, L.3 and L.4)

Agenda item 102: International drug control (*continued*) (A/53/3, A/53/72–S/1998/156, A/53/95–S/1998/311, A/53/129–E/1998/58, A/53/204, A/53/371–S/1998/848, A/53/382, A/53/383 and A/53/416)

1. **Ms. Patterson** (Canada), speaking on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand, said that the impact and the persistence of the drug problem in every part of the world were a cause of concern and that international cooperation to address the problem must be strengthened. The three countries were committed to addressing the drug problem within their own borders, and welcomed the efforts that had been made to draft plans of action on amphetamine-type stimulants, precursor chemicals, money-laundering, judicial cooperation and alternative development. Since the central role played by demand reduction in reducing the adverse consequences of drug abuse had been acknowledged, it was important to adopt an implementation plan for the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) should continue to play a leadership role in that area. At the UNDCP youth event "Youth Vision Jeunesse", held in April in Banff, Canada, young people had worked energetically to identify best practices in youth substance abuse prevention.

2. Canada, New Zealand and Australia felt that a balanced approach based on multilateral and bilateral cooperation should be adopted with respect to criminal justice and crime prevention matters. They had participated in the development of new international standards and practices for fighting crime which were consistent with international standards relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms. They welcomed, in particular, the decision to negotiate a convention against transnational organized crime that would contain detailed provisions on cooperation in areas such as mutual legal assistance, extradition and law enforcement, and supported the recommendation on the subject put forward by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1998/14. The progress made in preparing for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders was encouraging. Those Congresses played an important role in advancing the work being done to prevent crime, combat transnational organized crime, promote the rule of law and strengthen the criminal justice system. Since Canada, New Zealand and Australia were concerned about corruption in international commercial transactions and about its effects on the credibility of public officials around the world, they supported the decision taken at the seventh session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to update the manual on practical measures against corruption. At the same time, it was important not to neglect the other elements of the Commission's mandate, such as issues relating to the improvement of the criminal justice system, which had a significant impact on States' abilities to combat crime.

3. **Ms. Ramiro-Lopez** (Philippines), speaking on agenda item 101 on crime prevention and criminal justice, said that all countries had reiterated their strong political commitment to implementing the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, as witnessed by the Dakar, Manila and Buenos Aires Declarations adopted at the African, Asian and Latin American and Caribbean regional ministerial workshops. The elaboration of a convention that would serve as a framework document for international cooperation against transnational organized crime would be particularly welcome. Her country was concerned about the increase in transnational criminal activities such as trafficking in human beings, particularly the exploitation of women and children; trafficking in drugs, firearms and motor vehicles; illegal trade in cultural objects; money-laundering and other financial crimes; and corruption. She supported the initiatives taken by Austria and Italy in setting international norms against the smuggling of migrants. The Philippine delegation wished to draw the attention of the Centre for International Crime Prevention to the need to support two regional projects adopted at the Manila ministerial meeting, one of which consisted of updating legal, administrative and judicial instruments in the area of combating transnational organized crime, while the other was aimed at combating corruption and promoting transparency. To enhance cooperation in the region, the countries members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) were considering the establishment of a centre on transnational crime for harmonizing policies and coordinating operations. Cooperation would also be strengthened with other countries and international organizations, notably the Centre for International Crime Prevention.

4. **Mr. Fachir** (Indonesia), speaking on agenda item 101, said that the Government of Indonesia was encouraged by the efforts being led by the United Nations to combat transnational organized crime. In that connection, he

welcomed the attention paid by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its seventh session, to the implementation of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, as well as the progress it had made in reviewing its mandates and resources. He also welcomed the efforts made to implement the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, which should enhance the Programme's effectiveness and help the Secretariat to deal with the many challenges posed by its financing.

5. The new Centre for International Crime Prevention must be able to continue to provide Member States with the technical expertise and assistance they required. However, the work of the informal consultative group on resource mobilization, which had been established by resolution 5/3 of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, revealed that income projections for the current biennium were not encouraging and that the Centre would probably have difficulty in becoming more operational and in meeting requests for assistance from Member States, particularly developing ones. It was therefore essential for donors to ensure adequate funding for the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme.

6. With regard to the preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be held in Austria in the year 2000, Indonesia welcomed the draft provisional agenda adopted by the Commission. It hoped that the measures to be taken to streamline and minimize the costs of the preparatory process and of the Congress itself would not adversely affect the substantive work that must be accomplished.

7. Clearly if the international community was to make any measurable progress in combating transnational crime it must strengthen cooperation among all Member States and the crime prevention and criminal justice bodies of the United Nations. To that end, it must continue to work towards the full implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime. His delegation welcomed the work of the inter-sessional open-ended intergovernmental group of experts on the elaboration of a preliminary draft of a possible comprehensive international convention against organized transnational crime and supported the establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc committee for the purpose of elaborating the text. It drew attention once again to the need to render support to the developing countries so that they could participate fully in the work of that committee.

8. The Asian Regional Ministerial Workshop on Organized Transnational Crime and Corruption had been held in Manila in 1998. The unanimously adopted Manila Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Transnational Crime aimed to strengthen regional and international cooperation and called, *inter alia*, for the development of modern and adequate investigation and information-gathering techniques and the incorporation of provisions on money-laundering in legal systems. It also called for support to the global programme against money-laundering developed by UNDCP and the Centre for International Crime Prevention. Indonesia was committed to implementing the goals of the Declaration and to contributing to the development of joint strategies to combat crime. It would continue to work with its partners at the regional and international levels.

9. **Mr. Valee** (Brazil) said that international organized crime constituted a threat to democratic values and the sovereignty of States as well as to the well-being of individuals. It was therefore essential to strengthen judiciary and penitentiary systems in order to protect democratic institutions against organized crime and to intensify international technical assistance in combating delinquency and money-laundering. The Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders provided an opportunity to make a critical review of the efforts which had been made to find viable solutions to the problem. Brazil had taken various initiatives to combat organized crime; in particular, it had established regional councils and signed bilateral and multilateral treaties in the areas of police cooperation, extradition, repatriation of funds, legal assistance in criminal matters, exchange of information and transfer of prisoners. It had adopted new laws on money-laundering, small arms registration and possession and chemical precursors control. Guidelines for the treatment of offenders had been approved with a view to improving the protection of the fundamental rights of prisoners.

10. The globalization of the drug phenomenon brought about a spread of crime and threatened economic development. The fight against drugs must therefore be based on the principle of shared responsibility and a balanced and multisectoral approach. Drug control policies must address both supply and demand and take into account the root causes of the problem, namely poverty, unemployment and economic uncertainty. There was also a need for prevention and rehabilitation programmes and economic strategies to help farmers shift from illicit crops to legal agricultural activities. The scope of the problem required greater international cooperation.

11. At the domestic level, Brazil had taken major steps to combat illicit activities related to drugs; in particular, it had established a national anti-drug secretariat entrusted with the task of defining national policy, modernized the institutional framework, and assigned more resources to prevention campaigns and the rehabilitation of addicts. Brazil had also concluded bilateral cooperation agreements with several countries, including the member States of MERCOSUR.

12. **Mr. Amirkhizi** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on agenda item 102, said that, as the General Assembly had stressed at its special session in June 1998, in order to combat the drug problem, which was undermining sustainable development and the political and economic stability of countries, there was a need to strengthen regional and international cooperation in eradicating illicit drug cultivation and production, promoting alternative development, combating money-laundering, reducing the illicit demand for drugs, controlling precursors, chemicals and amphetamine-type stimulants and promoting judicial cooperation on drug control. In that respect, Iran believed that demand reduction was indispensable to any global strategy to combat drugs and that international cooperation must be based on the various United Nations conventions, to which the Islamic Republic of Iran was a party.

13. The Islamic Republic of Iran, which was geographically situated between the main drug producers in the East and the main consumer countries in the West, was used as a transit country, which forced it to spend enormous sums to fortify its common borders with Pakistan and, above all, Afghanistan, which had become the largest producer of narcotics worldwide, and in which total opium production had increased by 25 per cent since 1997; the Islamic Republic of Iran also had to deploy the necessary personnel along those borders. In spite of all those efforts, illicit traffic in narcotics was showing a marked increase.

14. At the national level, his Government had unilaterally carried out measures to control drug abuse and drug trafficking without receiving any contributions from international organizations or donor countries. It had also taken harsh anti-drug measures to reduce the transit of drugs to the West, which had had a direct and immediate effect on heroin smuggling to Europe.

15. The efforts made by the Islamic Republic of Iran had been recognized not only by the Executive Director of UNDCP in the course of his recent visits to the country, but also by a high-level 12-member mission consisting of UNDCP experts and officials from various Western countries. Informed with the precepts of Islam, the Islamic Republic of Iran was committed to continuing its campaign against narcotic drugs but considered that it was of vital importance to create a security belt around Afghanistan, given the situation in that poverty-stricken and war-ravaged country, which had turned into a haven for violence, terrorism and production and trafficking of narcotics. The international community should strive to re-establish peace and political stability, which would be the sole means of effectively curbing drug production and trafficking. His delegation urged UNDCP to continue its anti-drug efforts through regional cooperation.

16. **Mr. Kozlowski** (Poland), speaking on agenda item 101, began by aligning his delegation with the statement made by Austria on behalf of the European Union. Recent transformations in the world, especially the rapid advance of new technology, had helped criminal networks to become increasingly organized structures with access to sophisticated equipment, which enabled them to exploit every weakness in a State's legal system and to thwart attempts to terminate their activities. Since the existing international instruments were inadequate in that respect, the President of Poland had suggested in 1996 that the General Assembly should elaborate an international convention against transnational organized crime. Despite the difficulties inherent in such a project, the initiatives taken thus far, including, *inter alia*, the meetings of experts held in Warsaw and Buenos Aires and the session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had been very encouraging and had led to a consensus on the content of the future convention. Following the meeting of experts held in Warsaw, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had recommended the establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc committee for the purpose of elaborating an international convention against transnational organized crime. His delegation endorsed that recommendation and considered that the committee should concentrate on the main text of the convention, while the additional protocols dealing with particular types of criminal conduct could be developed subsequently. Although the task would not be easy, it believed that the international community would be able to achieve its goal, given the speedy conclusion of the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, adopted on 15 December 1997, and the progress achieved in the elaboration of an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism.

17. **Ms. Eshmambetova** (Kyrgyzstan) said she was gratified that the General Assembly, at its twentieth special session, had adopted the Political Declaration, the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, and the action plans against manufacture,

trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors, on control of precursors, on measures to promote judicial cooperation, on countering money-laundering and on international cooperation on the eradication of illicit drug crops and alternative development programmes and projects. The fact that Kyrgyzstan had been represented by its Prime Minister at the special session attested to the importance which it attached to the world drug problem.

18. Since its independence, in 1991, Kyrgyzstan had done its utmost to halt drug cultivation, production and trafficking. It had acceded to all the international conventions on the subject and had been the first country in Central Asia to adopt, in April 1998, a bill on narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors. Like the other countries of the region, it was working actively with UNDCP and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs within the framework of a subregional programme to combat drugs. Her Government was endeavouring, with the help of those bodies, which provided it with advisory and technical assistance services, to establish national machinery to combat narcotic drugs. The drug problem was accompanied inevitably by a series of related phenomena, including money-laundering, violence, terrorism and corruption. Economic globalization and the free circulation of goods and merchandise appeared to be adding to the dimensions of the problem. The Government of Kyrgyzstan, a land-locked country, feared that, unless appropriate measures were taken, traffic would increase now that some countries of the region had gained access to the Indian Ocean. In that respect, it welcomed the signature on 5 March 1998 in Vienna of a memorandum of agreement on cooperation between UNDCP and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. It was very anxious about the proliferation of illicit cannabis and ephedrine, which, because of the ease with which the plants could be grown and the favourable climate, could be cultivated domestically, with the risk that whole families might be engaging in substance trafficking. One of the priorities of the cooperation between UNDCP and her Government must be to seek a way of eliminating such crops without harming the environment. The prevention and reduction of drug abuse was one of the main goals of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control. Her Government, which lacked experience in what was a relatively new area for it, would be grateful to donor countries, UNDCP, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the international community as a whole for any assistance they could provide to it in the area of treatment for and rehabilitation of drug addicts, and it hoped that they would pool their efforts in order to break the vicious circle of drug supply and demand.

19. **Mr. Sychou** (Belarus), speaking on agenda item 101 on behalf of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, said that in order to combat the various forms of transnational crime which were becoming increasingly sophisticated and organized, the efforts of national judicial authorities and the cooperation of those authorities with other public institutions, the world of business, non-governmental organizations and society as a whole should be supplemented by the coordinated action of the entire international community, on the basis of the Political Declaration and the Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime adopted by the Ministerial Conference held at Naples in 1994. The Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which was to be held in Vienna in 2000, would also further those efforts. The countries on whose behalf he was speaking were fully prepared to participate in its preparation.

20. The countries in question were satisfied with the outcome of the seventh session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and welcomed the establishment of the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc committee whose task it was to elaborate the text of a convention against transnational organized crime. They were of the view that United Nations capability to counter crime must be strengthened, and they were ready to assist the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention in its work.

21. The countries members of the Commonwealth of Independent States had adopted in May 1996 a joint intergovernmental programme to combat organized and other dangerous forms of crime in their territories to the year 2000, a programme which contained organizational, legal and operational measures and measures in the area of information. The member countries were also preparing draft agreements on various types of crime. In the final document of the meeting held in December 1997 by anti-crime bodies of the countries of the Commonwealth, provision was made to revise the text of the 1993 Convention on legal assistance in civil, family and criminal matters.

22. Because numerous criminal groups were engaging in activities of a transnational and extremely technical nature, the countries on whose behalf he spoke had established an inter-State data bank. They were also planning a bank with data on foreigners and stateless persons who committed criminal acts in the territories of the countries members of the Commonwealth and persons who had committed crimes

against foreign citizens. The countries were continuing their cooperation in the area of training skilled personnel and were publishing reports on efforts to combat crime.

23. **Mrs. Kaba Camara** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that one of the evils of the global society was the internationalization of crime, of trafficking in drugs, firearms and persons, and of the laundering of money derived therefrom. The Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention seemed to have had some success recently in certain countries, but her delegation wondered whether that reflected a general, global tendency or merely involved isolated cases. A global approach was needed, since an improvement in the situation in one region could correspond to a resurgence of trafficking in another. In that regard, a more detailed study of the situation in sub-Saharan Africa would make it possible to determine whether there was any correlation between the reduction in trafficking and drug production in Latin America and the disturbing figures recorded over the past few years in Africa, especially with regard to cannabis production. The growth in trafficking in Africa was largely due to the lack of adequate resources to combat that scourge effectively. The international community should allocate the necessary funds to enable poor countries to implement the measures provided for in the Political Declaration and the action plans adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

24. At the national level, Côte d'Ivoire already had machinery put in place with the assistance of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the European Union, namely the Police Narcotics Division, the Interministerial Committee for Drug Control, the National Bureau of Narcotics and the Unit for Training in Drug Control in Africa. Côte d'Ivoire had ratified the various international drug-control instruments, and called upon States to harmonize their legislation in order to enhance the effectiveness of drug control at the regional and international levels. In addition, it had hosted two conferences organized by UNDCP, which had led to the adoption of drug-control measures at the subregional level.

25. Nevertheless, in order to strengthen national and international efforts in the fight against drugs, the international community should provide increased technical and financial assistance to the countries concerned; create a central database for criminal activities; set up a special fund at the subregional level into which would be paid the funds derived from drug confiscations and which would serve to finance activities for drug prevention and control; encourage cooperation and information exchange between the services involved at the national and subregional levels; and provide support for the establishment of a treatment and social-rehabilitation centre for drug addicts in African countries.

26. **Mr. Arda** (Turkey) said that, in accordance with the United Nations drug-control conventions and the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, Turkey had taken various measures to fight that scourge. Thus, on 16 April 1998, the President of Turkey, together with the Presidents of Bulgaria and Romania, had signed an agreement on cooperation in the fight against terrorism, organized crime, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, money-laundering, smuggling of persons and weapons and other relevant crimes. They had also invited other countries to sign the agreement. In addition, Turkey had encouraged the Economic Cooperation Organization to establish a coordinating office to assist member States in their fight against narcotics and had signed 43 bilateral agreements to combat illicit drugs.

27. At the regional level, the Turkish authorities had taken effective measures to suppress trafficking in narcotics and chemical precursors brought into Europe from the "Golden Crescent" and the "Golden Triangle". In that regard, Turkey considered that a comprehensive strategy against drug abuse must tackle the diversion of chemical precursors as an essential component of the illicit drug traffic; it therefore strongly supported the recommendations of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) concerning the application of article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. It also considered that the results of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly were far from adequate. In the absence of effective measures to prevent the diversion of chemical precursors, it was hard to invoke the principle of shared responsibility and to adopt a balanced approach in the fight against drug abuse. The control of precursors was as important as the reduction of demand and supply.

28. Turkey nevertheless considered that the Political Declaration adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly was an important step in the right direction, and it supported the idea of a comprehensive convention against terrorism. It would also support a convention to eliminate the financial sources of terrorism, as proposed by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, and looked forward to the outcome of the G-8 summit of major industrialized nations on that issue.

29. Since drug control and crime prevention were closely linked, Turkey welcomed the tasks assigned to the new Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention in various regions of the world. It considered that an international

convention against transnational organized crime would substantially contribute to national efforts to eradicate such crime, and it hoped that the question of links between terrorist organizations and organized crime would be dealt with when it was being elaborated. The international community, armed with international instruments on international trafficking in women and children, combating the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms and ammunition and the illicit trafficking in migrants, including by sea, would have an effective means of combating transnational organized crime.

30. **Mr. Tin** (Myanmar), speaking on item 102, said that, since 1996, his country had been implementing a plan to eliminate narcotic drugs in its territory by the year 2011, or even sooner if its efforts were reinforced by understanding and cooperation from the international community. Early in 1998, the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control of Myanmar, together with the Government of Japan and UNDCP, had held a seminar whose main objectives had been to discuss alternative-development programmes prepared by the Government of Myanmar and international donors with a view to reducing the supply of narcotic drugs and to examining the financial requirements of ongoing programmes in the region. As the Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention had indicated in his opening statement, UNDCP, in cooperation with relevant international organizations, would provide full support to the implementation of such programmes. Donor countries had also pledged $15.5 million in aid towards that end, of which $3.8 million had already made it possible to finance opium-substitution crops in the Wa region; such crops as buckwheat, corn, pulses, paddy, sugar cane, coffee, mulberry and rubber were being introduced. The Government welcomed that contribution insofar as it would noticeably facilitate the implementation of its narcotics-elimination plan. It only hoped that the work of UNDCP would not be constrained by those who clung to their own narrow views about his country's "current political circumstances" and lost sight of the fundamental objective, which was drug control.

31. **Mr. Kanju** (Pakistan), speaking on agenda item 102, said that his country was firmly committed to pursuing the objectives set in the Political Declaration and other documents adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session and had always been a proponent of collective efforts to tackle the drug problem. Pakistan was a signatory to all major United Nations conventions on narcotic drugs and was working closely with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and Western countries to eradicate illicit drugs from its territory.

32. At the regional level, Pakistan was a signatory to the Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and had been instrumental in setting up the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Committee on Narcotics Abuse Control, which since its inception had made a significant contribution to helping ECO countries in their fight against drug trafficking. At the bilateral level, Pakistan had an arrangement with India for exchanging intelligence information on drugs. The Pakistan-India Committee on Combating Drug Trafficking met regularly to update coordination on route analysis, drug movements and precursor-related issues. Pakistan also coordinated closely with the Islamic Republic of Iran on drug-related matters.

33. At the internal level, Pakistan had always attached, and would continue to attach, the highest priority to its fight against illicit drugs. Since the early 1990s, it had been implementing faithfully the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session in 1990. Stiffer penalties had been imposed against persons involved in drug trafficking (capital punishment and confiscation of properties and assets) and a special task force headed by an army general had been established to ensure effective interdiction of the flow of illicit drugs through the country. Those measures, combined with vigorous, coordinated action by law enforcement agencies, had resulted in a reduction in the flow of narcotic drugs through Pakistan as well as in domestic opium production, which had dropped from 800 tons in the mid-1980s to 24 tons in 1997. A nationwide awareness campaign had been launched to educate people about the negative effects of drug abuse, in association with the national electronic and print media and social, cultural and religious organizations, and anti-drug information had been included in the curricula of elementary and secondary schools. Lastly, Pakistan had taken various steps for the treatment of drug addicts, who could now seek treatment without fear of being prosecuted. Treatment and rehabilitation centres had been established in every district to help them.

34. There was a direct link between poverty and drug trafficking. Accordingly, if the drug problem was to be combated effectively, the international community must step up its efforts to implement anti-poverty strategies. Actively promoting alternative development in drug-producing countries would also go a long way towards eradicating illicit crop cultivation. Blaming each other for illicit drug trafficking would not solve the problem; what was needed was for drug-producing, consuming and transit countries to join forces in the fight.

35. **Mr. Tasmagambetov** (Kazakhstan), speaking on agenda item 101, said that the growth in the level of crime in all countries of the world, which had a particular impact on the economic stability and growth of countries with economies in transition, could be countered only through harmonized efforts by the international community and, particularly, the United Nations. Kazakhstan was convinced of the need to strengthen the potential of the United Nations in that area and it was prepared to cooperate actively with the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention. Kazakhstan also noted with satisfaction the role played by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in providing technical assistance to national criminal justice systems.

36. Kazakhstan called on Member States to step up their efforts to implement the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, which remained the basis for international cooperation. An international convention against organized transnational crime, a preliminary draft of which had been considered by the Inter-sessional Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts at its meeting in Warsaw in February 1998, must be adopted without delay.

37. His delegation welcomed the holding in Vienna in April 2000 of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and of the four workshops to be organized on that occasion, and believed that the Congress must be not only an advisory body to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme but also a worldwide forum which would determine further guidelines for the joint fight against crime.

38. "Strategy 2030" drawn up by the President of Kazakhstan called for resolute efforts to combat drug addiction, drug trafficking and corruption. Combating corruption and non-payment of taxes was among the primary tasks of the reform programme which the President had presented in his annual message, "Democratization of society, economic and political reform in the new century". There were plans to establish new special bodies endowed with broad powers, and an agency on State revenues. Kazakhstan was also updating its legislation to take account of the changing nature of crime, and a new Criminal Code had entered into force on 1 January 1998. In July 1998, the Act on Combatting Corruption had been adopted. Draft legislation was being prepared on combating organized crime and ensuring the personal security of witnesses and magistrates. Kazakhstan was taking active steps to institute regional and bilateral cooperation in the crime prevention field. The inter-State programme for joint measures to combat organized crime and other forms of dangerous crimes in the territory of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States for the period up to the year 2000 comprised legal, organizational, information and operational measures. The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), meeting in Almaty in May 1998, had also focused on the problem of combating various manifestations of crime and had adopted a memorandum of mutual understanding on cooperation in combating smuggling and customs fraud. Kazakhstan, as Chairman of ECO, would be making further efforts to expand cooperation in that area.

The meeting rose at noon.